**GROUP RESEARCH**

The Galaxy School – Grade 10 Students

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| Group Members |
| Preet Ghodasara |
| Mihir Rajendran |
| Vatsal Sagparia |
| Gopi Ghodasara |

AIMS AND PROJECT PLAN

The aim of this project is to create awareness about the saltpan workers about the impact of the harsh conditions that they live in and other socio-economic problems faced by them. This is important because saltpan workers are highly uneducated and do not realize the detrimental effects of the work done by them.

The project plan is to investigate the effects of environment and socio-economic factors that affect the lifestyle and income of the saltpan workers. We plan to explore mainly two aspects from a wide range of problems: malnutrition suffered by children and women and children’s education. Globally we planned to focus on their living conditions. To know more about them we visited Maliya (Jamnagar), which is 100kms far from our city Rajkot. We spent time with them by understanding and knowing more about their troubles and living conditions. We explored the site with saltpan workers and small organizations, which are bothered and do some welfare for them. Meeting with the saltpan workers will help us more in our research work and give us an idea of the real life conditions.

RATIONALE

Rain in Kutch saltpan leaves 5,000 stranded

**Vijaysinh Parmar, TNN** Nov 19, 2010, 03.53am IST (TIMES OF INDIA)

RAJKOT: The recent unseasonal rains have not only hit the farmers hard but also made life miserable for the saltpan workers in the Little Rann of Kutch. On Wednesday evening, heavy rainfall was recorded in Patdi, Kharaghoda and the Little Rann. The unexpected rains washed away the saltpans prepared by the workers last month, making it difficult for them to move out of the area and return to their villages.

There are more than 5,000 salt pan workers in the Little Rann, who produce salts in the traditional way and some making salt pans as far as 45 km from their villages in the Surendranagar district.

Reading the times of India, once one of the group members came across an article about the saltpans. So we were keen to find out and research on this idea and hence chose this as our focus question and explore more about the issues face by them. After expressing this idea with our teacher, she encouraged us to take up it topic as she was in contact with many NGO’s working for this and she said it would be a good idea for doing this project.

INTENDED OUTCOME

The intended outcome is an informative website to present our findings and make them accessible to the saltpan committees and all people across the world which might encourage them to raise some funds and help for their welfare. The website will contain a section about the major issues faced by them, 2 majorly being MALNUTRITION and EDUCATION. It will also consist of our findings done and the video of our efforts.  
The website link is: <http://saltpanworkersgpgrp.weebly.com/>

DELEGATION OF GROUP TASKS

Gopi: Video Compiling + Research + Research Compiling

Vatsal: Website Designing + Video Making & Compiling+ Research

Mihir: Photography (Video Recording) + Research

Preet: Research Compiling + Cross Culture Collaboration (Good Speaking Skills and can express views better with unknown persons)

GROUP MEETING LOG

Meeting 1 – Our meeting one was just the first session with our group, we discussed the major issues, which we are seeing in our day-to-day lives. Our group wanted to focus on the problem in which we can take some action and outline some prominent solutions. Being confused we had a short discussion with our teacher and so she suggested us some of the topics and hence, with her guidelines we roughly decided about the topic: salt pan workers. And lastly we had some agreements in the group associated with the outcome of our next meeting.

MEETING 2 - Arguing and debating about different topics but at last we ended with SALT PAN WORKERS.

Main research areas:

Child labour

Migratory workers

Health issues

Education issues

Water issues

MEETING 3 - Having our final focus question decided we then came up with the final decision about how to go about with the final end PRODUCT of our project; we agreed to create a website and, to support our research work we will compile a video showing the researched material and other small works done by the fellow group members for a support/evidence. Secondly, we figured out the strengths and weaknesses of our group members. After analyzing them we assigned particular roles to each member.

Preet – Group leader- Have to coordinate the project plan and team’s activities

Gopi – Facilitator- Organize along with the leader, the group meeting and agenda.

Vatsal – Technical work (making videos)

Mihir- Research work and resource person

MEETING 4– According to the roles decided in our group we divided our MAIN QUESTION into sub-topics and then assigned the research work to individual member according to the topics that interests them.

Meeting 5- We sat together and shared our individual researched work and our progress. After clearly analyzing our topic, we realized that we need to narrow down our topic and therefore, we then took the main two subtopics- CHILDREN’S EDUCATION

HEALTH ISSUESFACED BY SALTPAN WORKERS

Meeting 6- In this meeting we met Sumitraben, the director of the organization ANANDI who works for the welfare of the saltpan workers. She shared a presentation with us of the saltpan workers in Gujarat. After articulating the problems, which they face; we found out that the main problem is malnutrition and their living conditions. She gave us statistics and other required facts. We interacted with her and inquired for some information on which we wanted to focus. Then after, we had a discussion about how to do an action work, our group came up with the idea of proposing a letter to the government official and presenting our research work to them and show them what we concluded. The director Sumitraben told us that MALNUTRITION is the foremost problem faced by saltpan workers so we decided to make a field visit and find out the body mass index of around a group of 15-20 children and design a chart and identify the malnourished infants, this is the action we finalized. Locally, we agreed to focus on MALNUTRITION as a main focus question as malnutrition is not a major issue for saltpan workers globally; hence globally we are focusing on the general living conditions of the saltpan workers. After all the discussion we decided when to go for a field visit.

MEETING 7 –This was the meeting when we came up with a final date for the fields visit. After talking to our teacher and corresponding with the director of the organization ANANDI we decided to go on 24thfeb. Then we formed a questionnaire which was supposed to be used when we make a field visit.

MEETING 8 – Unfortunately, our date was postponed because of some events held at our school. So finally we made it up at 28thfeb. On the day of field visit we travelled there and saw how the salt pan workers are surviving and living.

MEETING 9- After we came back from the visit, we got together and discussed about how we want to the further about the project. We decided the work for the group members. Then each one of us got started with the work assigned.

MEETING 10- We got together and compiled everyone’s work together. It was the last meeting, as that day we completed all our work. Our project was ready by 15th March with the website published.

# **CALENDER**

C:\Users\SONY\Downloads\Documents\GP - Group Project\calendar jan.tiff

C:\Users\SONY\Downloads\Documents\GP - Group Project\calendar feb.tiff

C:\Users\SONY\Downloads\Documents\GP - Group Project\calendar march.tiff

INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION

Candidate Name: Vatsal Sagparia

**Evaluation of Plan and Process:**

We first enlisted the topics we would like to research. Then one by one we chose each topic and thought about how is growing and affecting other people? Or how is it known in the area? We than chose about the Saltpan workers and their living conditions. It took us almost a week to finalize our area of study for the project and there were still uncertainties about how exactly we would go about with the project. We usually had meetings within the school time during slots allocated for Global Perspectives, so a work environment was automatically around us. At the beginning of the project everybody was blank and no one knew how to go about. It first got highlighted when we read an article on it in TOI (Times of India).

Our Teacher invited an NGO worker Sumitraben who is director of a NGO group working for Area and Development and Networking Initiatives called “Anandi”. She gave us much info about the saltpan community. We started to research in our area and then we decided to go there.

We had a field trip there to a small village called Maliya where the extraction of salt is done. We interacted with the people there, and got hard facts about the community leaving there. This field trip totally changed my perspective and thoughts about the salt pan workers. I got to know about many things and their living conditions were really tough.

I also frequently found myself juggling with the Group Research and my Individual Research to meet deadlines, where I had conflicts and arguments with my group members. I feel that better time management could have allowed me to focus on what we could do with the Group Project a little more.

The planning was actually much smoother than the project process. Although we did not have a strict schedule to go by, I was surprised how everything simply worked out. The next week we spent some time analyzing our findings and then compile them in one place. Our cross-cultural collaboration with a saltpan worker from Ethiopia was quite successful.

**Evaluation of project outcome:**

In between meetings we constantly debated project outcomes in our heads. We thought to get a new innovative idea, where as we were confused between video and a PowerPoint presentation.

We had, in fact, discussed everything except for a website so I thought about it. It did have its advantages over a PowerPoint; media would be easier to present and information can be arranged in a million different ways.

We mutually agreed on making a website for two reasons: it could be accessed by people around the entire world, spreading awareness and also because it would be a better way of presenting a small documentary we have made.

As for the website, I am really pleased with the project outcome. Most of the work was done by me, and I did a really good job with the website designing. Although Gopi and Preet contributed to the informative section. The website was being updated with small details even up until the last minute, but the final outcome is considerably informative and it presents our research powerfully.

I realized that the video at last was time consuming and I had to really struggle a lot with the programming, cutting and editing.

When I was unable to make the video before the submission on my last day, people didn’t trust me, where I did not lose my confidence and I was able to make a small documentary successfully in 4 hours.

**Evaluation of individual contribution:**

Then when we started doing the project I had many ideas popping in my mind haphazardly. I had many ideas on what should be our topic what will we include in the project and all that stuff. On the first group meeting we had to decide the group leader, everybody stood and my vote was to make one the group leader, so I had played an important role in choosing the correct leader.

As Group Member I had to make sure our research and presentation is both efficient as well as punctual for submission. My role was also to research the work with video making and compilation. I believe I carried out my role as responsibly as I could, despite submitting at the last moment. I made it a point to check in on the status of the information and research, the cross-cultural collaboration and the other areas of research with Preet and Gopi. I also contributed to video record the interaction between people and our group members, and also to the compressing of our video and adding, clicking and editing of photographs.

My role was also to make the website and add, search and edit the information and photographs. It took me long searching the right pictures and also to compile them in the web-link. Our aim was to create a website, where I was assigned and I created it successfully. I was good with technical things and I made a video first in a software named “Sony Vegas Pro 12”, which was challenging. It was difficult because as we know, it’s harder to make things simpler than complicated. But as a group we worked out a better meeting log, project outcome I was very relaxed at start but as we got nearer to the submission deadline, I realized I won’t be able to complete the project on time. So I decided to focus properly and take it seriously. I usually work under pressure which is the reason I was relaxed at the start and the pressure made me actually work better.

However, our project lacked organization and focus in the beginning and I feel I could have done a better job by creating a more detailed plan for us. Later on, however, I did my best to co-ordinate everything we did so that our research would directly relate to the project outcome. I am happy with the group work and a clearer planning would have made it more time saving. Doing this project was an entirely different experience. We’ve have had many projects but this project was very different and introduced me to an entire different way to look at projects and do them. I thought it would be a normal project with usual research, but when we completed it, I realized that projects can be fun and can be done with a lot more enjoyable manner. It helped me identify some weaknesses and strengths and was a very wonderful experience overall.

**Word Count: 1095**